



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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Inflatable Dam Repair Schedule Finalized

Agency Continues to Meet Water Demand

Santa Rosa, CA – The Sonoma County Water Agency (Agency) has finalized a repair schedule intended to fix a leak in its inflatable dam. The Agency has been working around the clock to monitor the dam and continues to meet water demand and maintain flows in the Russian River.

The completion of the repair schedule comes after the Agency's Board of Directors (also the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors) on June 27 approved a resolution declaring an emergency need to repair the Agency's inflatable dam. The resolution provides the Agency general manager/chief engineer authority to enter into contracts and take actions as necessary to repair the dam. The total estimated cost of repair work is \$500,000. The cost of the repair work includes securing consultants and all the necessary equipment to efficiently repair the dam.

Over the past week, representatives from Bridgestone Corporation, the inflatable dam's manufacturer, have been on-site monitoring the operation of the dam and providing consultation on the means and methods of performing the repairs.

Repair Work Schedule:

- **To Date:** Agency staff and Bridgestone representatives are monitoring the operation of the inflatable dam around the clock. The facility has been able to meet current high summer water demands. Agency staff and Bridgestone representatives have met throughout the past week to develop the repair schedule.
- **July 10, 2006:** Bids for repair work from potential contractors to be submitted to the Agency.
- **July 18, 2006:** Bid for repair work to be awarded.
- **July 20, 2006:** Temporary coffer dams installed to isolate work area from the river.
- **July 24, 2006:** Bridgestone technicians and other repair contractors begin repair work on the inflatable dam. Cranes will be utilized to lift the dam in order for repair work to commence. Repair work is estimated to be completed in one to two weeks.

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Below are the steps being implemented by the Agency to begin repair work on the inflatable dam:

Contracts and Agreements:

Temporary Cofferd Dams: A temporary dam plan has been developed to create a work zone in the Russian River in order to repair the existing inflatable dam. The coffer dams, also made of rubber, will divert river flow to emergency wet wells.

Construction Contract to Assist with Repairs:

A construction contract has been drafted and potential bidders have been contacted. A mandatory site visit for bidders was scheduled for July 6. Bids must be submitted to the Agency on Monday, July 10 at 2:30 p.m.

Bridgestone Technical Support:

Bridgestone will provide technical specifications for some elements of the repair work, including technical support and advice during the work required to open the dam and prepare for the actual repair of the rubber. Bridgestone will also provide specialized labor and equipment to make the required repair to the inflatable dam.

Current Inflatable Dam Status:

The Agency, in consultation with Bridgestone, has stabilized the operating level of the inflatable dam at 34.5 feet. Water diversion from the river to the Mirabel ponds is being maintained and water demand is being met.

The Agency has been making preparations to install alternate means to maintain the diversion to the Mirabel ponds once the dam is lowered for repairs. The primary diversion will involve using the existing emergency wet wells (approximately 100 feet down stream of the dam) to divert water to the ponds. As a back up, the Agency will have additional pumps on site to divert water from areas behind the dam to the ponds. A crane and other equipment will be used to help repair the dam once it is fully deflated.

The Agency continues to encourage its water retail providers to continue implementation of water conservation measures and be prepared to operate local water supply sources as it repairs damage to its inflatable dam. The Agency also notified several regulatory agencies about the leak.

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Sonoma County Water Agency provides water supply, flood protection and sanitation services for portions of Sonoma and Marin counties. Visit us on the Web at www.sonomacountywater.org.